

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (cancelled).
2. (cancelled)
3. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:
said concave portion has a constant radius.
4. (withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:
said concave portion has a varying radius in at least one direction.
5. (withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:
said concave portion has a varying radius in at least two directions.
- 6-7. (cancelled).
8. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:
said convex portion extends above a generally flat surface and is surrounded by a groove that extends below said generally flat surface.
9. (Currently Amended) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein~~in[[:]]~~
~~the middle component has an anterior edge and a posterior edge; and~~ said convex portion has
a center of radius that is closer to said anterior edge than it is to said posterior edge.
10. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:
the middle component has an anterior edge and a posterior edge, and the middle component

varies in height along a direction between the anterior edge and the posterior edge.

11-16. (cancelled).

17. (currently amended) A prosthetic assembly for use between a pair of adjacent vertebrae, comprising:

a first base component having a first side adapted for engaging the first of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side comprising a concave portion;

a second base component having a first side adapted for engaging the second of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side;

the first sides of each of the base components comprising a plurality of sharpened teeth and a raised portion comprising a pair of concentric raised circular portions stacked, one atop the other, each of the raised portions having angled sidewalls that taper inwardly in the direction towards the base component to cooperate with bone in-growth, as the vertebra-engaging adaptation; and

a middle component having a first side with a convex portion thereon adapted to engage the concave portion of the first base component, and an opposing second side;

wherein the second base component and the middle component each comprises a slot having edges extending linearly from an anterior edge to a posterior edge of each respective component such that the second side of the second base component ~~is adapted to slideably removably~~ receives the second side of the middle component.

18. (previously presented) The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein:

the sharpened teeth are positioned near a periphery of the first side of the base component and the raised portion with angled sidewalls is positioned in a central area thereof.

19. (cancelled).

20. (previously presented) The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein the one raised

portion that is atop the other raised portion has a flat surface.

21. (previously presented) The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein the second base component further includes a raised wall disposed on the second side thereof such that the raised wall slidably receives the second side of the middle component.

22. (previously presented) The prosthetic assembly of claim 21, wherein the raised wall includes one or more apertures operating to engage a clipping element disposed on the second side of the middle component such that the second side of the middle component is attached to the second side of the second base component.

23. (previously presented) The prosthetic assembly of claim 22, wherein the clipping element is disposed in a groove on the second side of the middle component, and at least one portion of the clipping element engages the one or more apertures of the raised wall.

24. (previously presented) The prosthetic assembly of claim 22, wherein the middle component includes a side slot that engages the raised wall.

25. (previously presented) The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein the middle component includes at least one raised wing surface that tapers downwardly toward at least one outside edge of the middle component.

26. (previously presented) The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein the middle component includes a circumferential groove that operates to mate with an outer rim disposed on and/or around the concave portion of the second side of the first base component such that over-rotation is reduced and/or prevented.

27. (New) The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein the opposing second side of the

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middle component further comprises a spring retention groove extending across a length of the base component configured to receive a clipping element